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May 22, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWG*

RE: Site Inspection, Levan Gypsum Mine, ^SM/023/016, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 9, 1991

Time of Inspection: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Conditions: Sunny, cool

Participants: Tom Shore, Don Oker, USFS; Gary McFarland, Utah Wilderness Alliance; Jane Leeson, Wilderness Society, Utah Chapter; Holland Shepherd and Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

The operator of this site, Mr. Jack Densie, filed a SMO with the Division in October of 1990. He also filed a Plan of Operations with the USFS. The Plan has not yet been approved. The Forest Service asked for a \$38,000 bond. The site has not yet been activated.

Concerns at the site include: 1) safety (steep access road); 2) wildlife (prime deer habitat); and 3) reclamation (very steep terrain).

The operator has indicated he plans to mine 30,000 tons/year from the site.

The mine access road is extremely steep in spots, >10%. Portions of the road are located on USFS ground and portions on private. The private portion is poorly graded, very steep and eroding badly.

The site is located in prime winter range for deer.

The site is in a very poor location for mining. It is situated in the middle of a deeply cut drainage. The hillsides slope out from the drainage at @ 40° 1.2h:1v.

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The access road is about 1 mile in length. The site itself, disturbs @1/4 acre. The disturbance is pre-law.

The site is accessed by traveling due east from Levan, taking the Chicken Creek Canyon Fork and traveling about 1 mile. An undeveloped 4-wheel drive track must then be taken, to access the site, which switchbacks up the north facing slope. The road is currently driveable only to @1/3 the way up to the mine site.

jb
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